

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 TRSE-00

INT-05 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /058 W

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R 131505Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1555

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL MILAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 8506

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, ETRD, EALR

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL MERCURY ASSOCIATION (ASSIMER)

REF: (A) STATE 114507; (B) LIMA 4213; (C) US MISSION GENEVA

3924; (D) US MISSION GENEVA 4059

1. SUMMARY: ITALIAN MERCURY INDUSTRY SOURCES HAVE SHOWN
CONSIDERABLE RELUCTANCE TO DISCUSS CHARACTER AND PURPOSES
INTERNATIONAL MERCURY ASSOCIATION (ASSIMER). NEVERTHELESS,
INFORMATION AVAILABLE HERE CONFIRMS THAT CONTAINED REFTELS. GOI
INTERESTED AS WELL. END SUMMARY

2. IN EMBASSY CONTACTS, REPRESENTATIVES OF ITALIAN MERCURY
INDUSTRY, 100 PERCENT STATE-OWNED, HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT TO DESCRIBE
ASSIMER'S PROGRESS, PURPOSES AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, AND
IN FACT, HAVE SOUGHT TO MINIMIZE PROGRESS ACTUALLY REGISTERED.
NOT SUPRISING, MERCURY INDUSTRY REPS HAVE SOUGHT TO PLAY DOWN
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CARTEL-LIKE ASPECTS OF ASSIMER. MERCURY INDUSTRY REPS DENY THAT

ASSIMER WILL FIX PRICES, NOTING -- PROBABLY CORRECTLY--THAT MARKET CONDITIONS WOULD NOT PERMIT IT EVEN IF ASSIMER SO WISHED.

3. DESPITE RELUCTANCE MERCURY INDUSTRY, INFORMATION AVAILABLE HERE (OBTAINED PRIOR REPORTED MAY 12-13 MILAN MEETING) CONFIRMS THAT REPORTED REFTELS: THAT ASSIMER WILL HAVE THREE BODIES: AN ASSEMBLY, A GOVERNING COUNCIL AND A WATCHDOG COMMITTEE; THAT IT IS ORGANIZED TO (A) DEFEND THE COMMERCIAL INTERESTS OF THE PRODUCERS; (B) STRENGTHEN TIES BETWEEN PRODUCERS; AND (C) RATIONALIZE PRODUCTION. SUPPORT WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE ASSOCIATION FIDUCIARIRE SUISSE, 40 RUE DU MARCHE', GENEVA.

4. INFO CONTAINED PARA 3 OBTAINED FROM ITALIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA), WHICH IS ACTIVELY INTERESTED SINCE ITALIAN PARTICIPATION IN A PRODUCERS' CARTEL WOULD BE CONTRARY TO GOI POLICY IN THIS AREA. SINCE MERCURY PRODUCTION STATE-OWNED, GOI CONCERNED THAT ITALIAN PARTICIPATION WOULD BE CONSTRUED AS OFFICIAL SUPPORT. MFA HAS REQUESTED COMPLETE EXPLANATIONS FROM MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND MINISTRY OF STATE PARTICIPATIONS (RESPONSIBLE FOR STATE-CONTROLLED COMPANIES), AND PROMISED TO SHARE ANYTHING OBTAINED WITH EMBASSY. VOLPE

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06 JUL 2006

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